

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 19-24, 26, 31, 32 and 35-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann (U.S. Patent No. 4,691,801) in view of Maslonka, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,161). The Examiner objected to claims 4, 5, 23 and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended certain claims by incorporating the limitations of the objected to claims into their respective base claim, amending certain other claims to reflect proper dependency and has amended another independent claim (claim 31) to incorporate the limitations of one or more of the objected to claims. The Applicant believes the amendments made in response to the Examiner's rejections have placed the application in position for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 - Applicant is amending claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 2, 3 and 4. The Examiner identified claim 4 as being allowable if the limitations thereof were incorporated into its base claim (claim 1) and including any intervening claims (claims 2 and 3). The Applicant believes claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 2 through 4 - Applicant is cancelling these claims as being redundant after incorporating the limitations thereof into claim 1.

Claim 5 - Applicant is amending claim 5 to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 4 (which is being cancelled as being incorporated into claim 1).

1 Claim 6 - Applicant is amending claim 6 to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 2 (which is being
2 cancelled as being incorporated into claim 1).

4 Claim 8 - Applicant is amending claim 8 to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 2 (which is being
5 cancelled as being incorporated into claim 1).

7 Claim 21 - Applicant is amending claim 21 to incorporate the limitations of claim 23. The Examiner
8 identified claim 23 as being allowable if the limitations thereof were incorporated into its base claim
9 (claim 21) and including any intervening claims (none). The Applicant believes claim 21 is now
10 allowable.

12 Claim 23 - Applicant is cancelling claim 23 as being redundant as the limitations thereof are being
13 incorporated into claim 21.

15 Claim 24 - Applicant is amending claim 24 to depend from claim 21 instead of claim 23 (which is being
16 cancelled as being incorporated into claim 21).

18 Claim 31 - Applicant is amending claim 31 to also incorporate the limitations of claim 23. Although the
19 Examiner did not identify any claim associated with independent claim 31 as being objected to, the
20 Applicant believes the present amendment places such claim in condition for allowance. Other than the
21 door lock device, claim 31 has similar limitations (with regard to the patentable aspects of the present
22 invention) as claim 21.

24 As to the remaining non-cancelled claims, the Applicant believes the remaining claims
25 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on one of the allowable independent claims
26 (namely claims 1, 21 and 31).

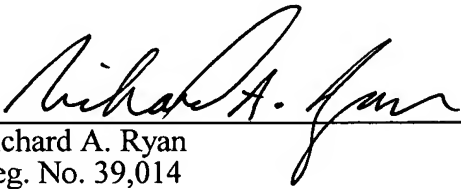
1 No claims are being added, therefore, no additional fees for claims are believed due.

2 In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

3 Reconsideration of the rejections and objections in light of this Amendment is requested. Applicant
4 believes that the amended claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1, 5-9, 19-22, 24-
5 26, 31-32 and 35-50 is respectfully solicited.

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7 Dated: February 22 2006

8 Respectfully Submitted,

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